

CLAIMS

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1. A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence RMFPNAPYL or a portion or variant thereof provided that the peptide is not intact human WT-1 polypeptide.

2. A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence CMTWNQMNL or a portion or variant thereof provided that the peptide is not intact human WT-1 polypeptide.

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3. A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence HLMPPFGPLL or a portion or variant thereof provided that the peptide is not intact human gata-1 polypeptide.

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4. A peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the peptide is capable of binding to HLA-A0201.

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5. A peptide according to Claim 4 wherein when bound to HLA-A0201 the peptide-bound HLA-A0201 is capable of eliciting the production of a cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) which recognises a cell which aberrantly expresses a polypeptide comprising the given amino acid sequence.

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6. A peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 wherein the peptide includes non-peptide bonds.

7. A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence RMFPNAPYL.

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8. A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence CMTWNQMNL.

9. A peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence HLMPPGPLL.

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10. A polynucleotide encoding a peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9.

11. A polynucleotide according to Claim 10 which is DNA.

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12. An expression vector capable of expressing a polypeptide according to any one Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9.

13. A host cell comprising a polynucleotide according to Claim 10 or 11 or an expression vector according to Claim 12.

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14. A method of producing a peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 the method comprising culturing the host cell according to Claim 13 and obtaining the peptide from the host cell or its culture medium.

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15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide according to Claim 10 or 11 or an expression vector according to Claim 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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17. A peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 for use in medicine.

18. A polynucleotide according to Claim 10 or 11 or an expression vector according to Claim 12 for use in medicine.

19. A cancer vaccine comprising a peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 or a polynucleotide according to Claim 10 or 11 or an expression vector according to Claim 12.

20. A method of killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any of Claims 1 to 3, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 or a polynucleotide according to Claim 10 or 11 or an expression vector according to Claim 12 wherein the amount of said peptide or amount of said polynucleotide or amount of said expression vector is effective to provoke an anti-target cell immune response in said patient.

21. Use of a peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 or a polynucleotide according to Claim 10 or 11 or an expression vector according to Claim 12 in the manufacture of a medicament for killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any of Claims 1 to 3.

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22. A method for producing activated cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) *in vitro*, the method comprising contacting *in vitro* CTL with antigen-loaded human class I MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a

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suitable antigen-presenting cell for a period of time sufficient to activate, in an antigen specific manner, said CTL wherein the antigen is a peptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 9.

5 23. A method according to Claim 22 wherein the CTL and the antigen-presenting cell are allogeneic (allorestricted) with respect to the class I MHC molecule.

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10 24. A method according to Claim 22 wherein the CTL and the antigen-presenting cell are syngeneic (self-restricted) with respect to the class I MHC molecule.

15 25. A method according to any one of Claims 22 to 24 wherein the antigen is loaded onto class I MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen-presenting cell by contacting a sufficient amount of the antigen with an antigen-presenting cell wherein before contact the class I MHC molecules of the antigen-presenting cell are substantially unoccupied and after contact the class I MHC molecules are substantially fully occupied.

20 26. A method according to any one of Claims 22 to 24 wherein the antigen-presenting cell comprises an expression vector according to Claim 12.

25 27. A method according to any one of Claims 22 to 26 wherein the class I MHC molecule is HLA-A0201.

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28. Activated cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) obtainable by the method according to any one of Claims 22 to 27.

29. Activated cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) which selectively recognise a cell which aberrantly expresses a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any one of Claims 1 to 3.

30. A T-cell receptor (TCR) which recognises a cell which aberrantly expresses a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any one of Claims 1 to 3, the TCR being obtainable from the cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) of Claims 28 or 29, or a functionally equivalent molecule to the TCR.

31. A polynucleotide encoding a T cell receptor (TCR) as defined in Claim 30.

32. An expression vector capable of expressing a T cell receptor (TCR) as defined in Claim 30.

33. A method of killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any one of Claims 1 to 3, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective number of cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) as defined in Claims 28 or 29.

34. A method of killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any of Claims 1 to 3, the method comprising the steps of (1) obtaining

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cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) from the patient; (2) introducing into said cells a polynucleotide encoding a T cell receptor (TCR), or a functionally equivalent molecule, as defined in Claim 30; (3) introducing the cells produced in step (2) into the patient.

35. A method of killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any of Claims 1 to 3, the method comprising the steps of (1) obtaining dendritic cells from said patient; (2) contacting said dendritic cells with a peptide as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 9 or which a polynucleotide or expression vector according to Claim 10 to 12 *ex vivo*; and (3) reintroducing the so treated dendritic cells into the patient.

36. A method of killing target cells in a patient according to any one of Claim 20 or 33 to 35 wherein the target cells are cancer cells.

37. A method according to Claim 36 wherein the cancer is any one of a leukaemia, breast cancer, melanoma and ovarian cancer which aberrantly expresses the WT1 polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequences RMFPNAPYL and CMTWNQMNL.

38. A method according to Claim 36 wherein the cancer is a leukaemia which aberrantly expresses the gata-1 polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence HLMPPGPLL.

39. Use of cytotoxic T lymphocytes as defined in Claims 28 or 29 in the manufacture of a medicament for killing target cells in a patient which

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target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any one of Claims 1 to 3.

5 40. Use of cytotoxic T lymphocytes as produced in step (2) of Claim 34 in the manufacture of a medicament for killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any one of Claims 1 to 3.

10 41. Use of dendritic cells as produced in step (2) of Claim 35 in the manufacture of a medicament for killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any of Claims 1 to 3.

42. Any novel method of treating cancer as herein disclosed.

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